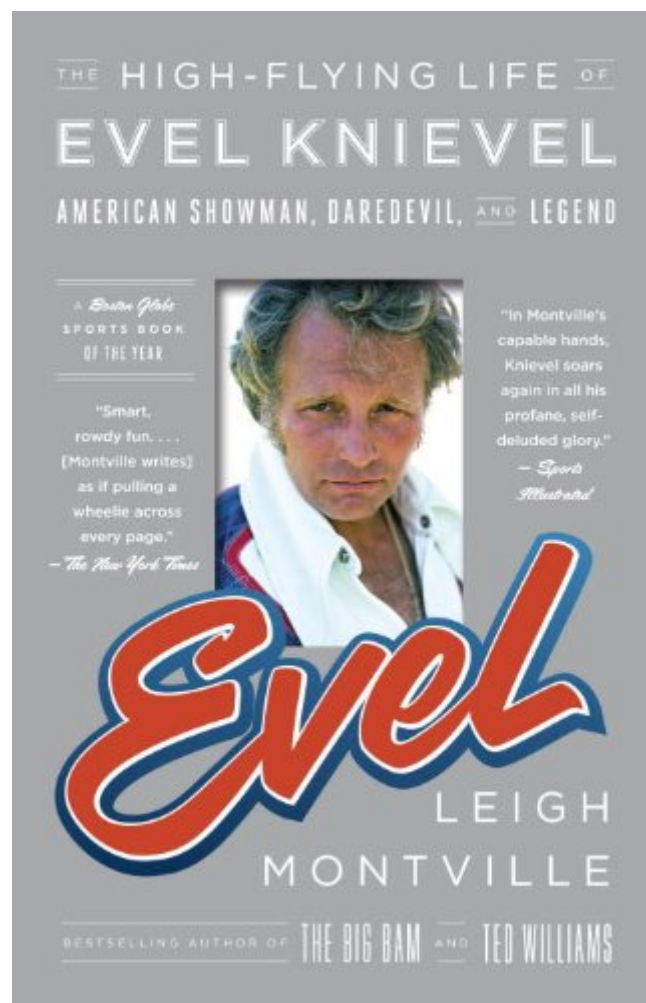




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Evel: The High-Flying Life Of Evel Knievel: American Showman, Daredevil, And Legend



Synopsis

From New York Times bestselling author Leigh Montville, this riveting and definitive new biography pulls back the red, white, and blue cape on a cultural icon and reveals the unknown, complex, and controversial man known to millions around the world as Evel Knievel. Evel Knievel was a high-flying daredevil, the father of extreme sports, the personification of excitement and danger and showmanship . . . and in the 1970s Knievel represented a unique slice of American culture and patriotism. His jump over the fountains at Caesar's Palace led to a crash unlike anything ever seen on television, and his attempt to rocket over Snake River Canyon in Idaho was something only P. T. Barnum could have orchestrated. The dazzling motorcycles and red-white-and-blue outfits became an integral part of an American decade. Knievel looked like Elvis . . . but on any given Saturday afternoon millions tuned in to the small screen to see this real-life action hero tempt death. But behind the flash and the frenzy, who was the man? Bestselling author Leigh Montville masterfully explores the life of the complicated man from the small town of Butte, Montana. He delves into Knievel's amazing place in pop culture, as well as his notorious dark side and his complex and often contradictory relationships with his image, the media, his own family, and his many demons. Evel Knievel's story is an all-American saga, and one that is largely untold. Leigh Montville once again delivers a definitive biography of a one-of-a-kind sports legend. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is what a biography should be: a well-researched, well-written examination of where a person comes from and what makes his or her life worth examining. Evel Knievel was a bona fide superhero to me and my generation as we were growing up, but we didn't know the whole story. Montville expertly tells the rise and fall of self-made man Robert Craig Knievel, the moral of which is this: admire Evel's achievements but don't admire the man.

Parts were interesting but not a page turner.

This is the third book on Evel that I read and my favorite. I grew up watching Evel on Wide World Of Sports, played with the toys, rode my bike then motorcycle, stood on seat and did wheelies. Can't help but love him and hate him at the same time. Very interesting life he made for himself. How does one man out of billions in the world become a household name. I recommend this to anyone interested in that question.

This is a surprisingly well presented tale about one of Butte's strange people. Leigh Montville has fashioned a really interesting tale about the life of Kneivel. Little seems to have been invented to make the book such a good read. I recognize the 50's, 60's in Butte and only just discovered the rest of Evel's adventures in the wider world. I enjoyed this presentation and was surprised to learn that I did. A friend mentioned one name in this book, moments later had found the book and loaded it to my Kindle. It is a good read!

Really liked the way this book was written. It did not spend too much time with childhood and great grandfathers as other Bio's tend to do just to take up 20 extra pages. For me it was a non stop ride of Evel's lust for life. I do wish it would have gone just a little more in to the remaining years of his life but I guess there wasn't much there to tell.

Great effort from longtime sportswriting star Montville here. I found myself marveling time and again

at the audaciousness of Knievel. The man was one of the most famous folks in the country in the early 70s, was arrested, and then almost disappeared. Thanks to Montville for telling the tale. Well worth the time. Very highly recommended for sports fans as well as those who want to know more about America during the 70s.

Book has good details but writing is full of hyperbole.

I loved this cat when I was a kid. Turns out he was a grade A jerk to most folks. You can't deny his cajones though. Really well written interesting book all the way through.

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